

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01

/092 W

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R 101130Z AUG 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3572

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. REPORTED ISRAEL/EGYPTIAN DOGFIGHT. EGYPTIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN'S RELEASE OF NEWS REPORTING AERIAL CLASH BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT AND SIX ISRAELI PHANTOMS INTRUDING INTO EGYPTIAN AIRSPACE AFTERNOON AUGUST 9 MAKES HEADLINES IN ALL CAIRO PAPERS AUGUST 10. PRESS REPORTING GENERALLY DOES NOT GO BEYOND LANGUAGE OF MILITARY COMMUNIQUE, BUT EMPHASIZES FACT THAT DURING COURSE OF ENGAGEMENT ONE ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WAS HIT. FOLLOWING THIS, ISRAELI PHANTOMS TURNED EASTWARD AWAY FROM EGYPTIAN AIRSPACE.

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2. SADAT TO ATTEND ALGIERS SUMMIT. PRESS REPORTS STATEMENT BY MALOUD KASSEM, ALGERIAN MINED, FOLLOWING MEETING WITH SADAT TO EFFECT THAT BOUMEDIENNE HAD INVITED SADAT TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS, AND THAT SADAT HAD ACCEPTED. KASSEM DEPARTED CAIRO AUGUST 9 FOR KHARTOUM, WHERE HE IS TO DELIVER MESSAGE OF INVITATION FROM BOUMEDIENNE TO NIMAIRI.

3. EGYPT/LIBYA. PRESS REPORTS RETURN FROM TRIPOLI OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION LED BY HATEM AUGUST 9. AHRAH NOTES QADHAAFI MET WITH EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN UNITY CONFEREES IN JOINT SESSION BEFORE HATEM'S DEPARTURE. PRESS DOES NOT MENTION THAT ANY POLITICAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED DURING TALKS; INSTEAD, PRESS ANNOUNCES AGREEMENTS ON MINOR TECHNICAL PROJECTS SUCH AS THE CONSTRUCTION BY EGYPTIAN COMPANIES OF 8,000 HOUSING UNITS IN LIBYA, AND THE DISPATCH OF 18,000 EGYPTIAN EXPERTS AND WORKERS, AND 3,000 EGYPTIAN TEACHERS TO LIBYA. LIBYAN PRIMIN JALLUD WILL REPORTEDLY VISIT CAIRO NEXT WEEK.

4. HEYKAL HAS TWO ARTICLES IN AUGUST 10 AHRAH. FIRST IS PREDICTABLE, DESCRIBES EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WHICH HEYKAL HAD WITH VARIOUS BRITISH AND FRENCH PERSONAGES DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE. HEYKAL CLAIMS THAT FRENCH FONMIN JOBERT HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN ANY DETAIL DURING NIXON/BREZHNEV SUMMIT AND THAT, HMOREOVER, WASHINGTON BELIEVED THEY COULD PUSH ARABS TO NEGOTIATION TABLE WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO. HEYKAL SAYS THAT DURING SUMMIT BREZHNEV COMPLAINED THAT, DESPITE SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO ARABS, ARABS WERE TREATING USSR ON SAME FOOTING AS THEY WERE US. HEYKAL STATES NEED FOR EGYPT TO STRENGTHEN HERSELF, AND ADDS THAT FULL UNION BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA IS NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF THE ARABS, FORTHE BATTLE OF LIBERATION AND THE BATTLE OF DEVELOPMENT. HE CONCLUDES THAT A METHOD OF MILITARY ACTION MUST BE FOUND THATWILL ADAPT THE PRINCIPLES OF WAR TO EGYPT'S SPECIAL CONDITIONS. THIS, HE SAYS, WILL NEED SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR FOR PREPARATION, AND THE SOONER THE METHOD IS USED, THE BETTER.

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5. HEYKAL'S SECOND ARTICLE IS ATTACK ON GENERAL MOHAMMED NAGUIB. LAST WEEK, BEIRUT MAGAZINE AL-HAWADESS PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH NAGUIB DURING WHICH LATTER STATED, INTER ALIA, THAT HEYKAL HAD TRIED TO CONTACT HIM FOUR TIMES WHEN HE WAS HEAD OF EGYPTIAN RCC, BUT THAT HE HAD REFUSED ON ADVICE OF EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE, WHICH INFORMED HIM THAT HEYKAL WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE AMERICANS. HEYKAL'S ARTICLE THIS WEEK BEGINS WITH STATEMENT THAT HEYKAL HAD

SERIOUSLY THOUGHT OF BRINGING A LIBEL SUIT AGAINST NAGUIB, WHO APPEARED TO BE STATING UNTRUTHS. HEYKAL DESCRIBES ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND NAGUIB, AND NOTES THAT LATTER SWORE HE WOULD SIGN A STATEMENT OF DENIAL IN HEYKAL'S OWN PRESENCE. MEETING EVIDENTLY DID NOT COME ABOUT, AND HEYKAL DEVOTES REST OF HIS ARTICLE TO PERSONAL ATTACK ON NAGUIB, WHOM HE SAYS WAS ONLY "PRESIDENT BY CHANCE" BETWEEN 1952 AND 1954. HEYKAL ALSO SAYS THAT NAGUIB'S ATTACK ON HIM, AND ON NASSER, IS PART OF A LARGER DESIGN TO DISCREDIT NASSER. (COMMENT: HEYKAL'S ARTICLE IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL. IT REFLECTS THE EMERGENCE OF A FACTIONAL CLASH BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS WHO PROCLAIM THEMSELVES TO BE ADMIRERS OF NASSER AND NASSERISM (INCLUDING HEYKAL AND NON-EGYPTIANS SUCH AS QADHAAFI) AND OTHERS, INCREASINGLY MORE VOCAL, WHO HAVE NO LOVE FOR NASSER AND WHO ARE BECOMING MORE OPEN IN STATING THAT NASSER DAMAGED HIS COUNTRY.) WILEY

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